



# Representative Larry Springer

## Representative Larry Springer

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**Committees:**

- Housing – Vice Chair
- Capital Budget
- Judiciary

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1-800-562-6000

Dear neighbors,

Recently we finished my first legislative session in Olympia and it was an honor to serve as your representative from the 45th District.

The past session was a real learning experience and I worked hard to represent the values of our district. *I voted to hold the line against new taxes and bring greater accountability to our state government.*

My focus remains creating jobs while finding ways to lower healthcare costs and improve our educational system.

I am proud of the work I have done. Government needs to be accountable to the people it represents. It needs to balance its checkbook and live within its means.

In this report you will find information on some of the major issues I was involved in. I'm interested in what you think and invite you to contact my office with opinions and thoughts on what we have done or what you would like us to do in the future.

Again, thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

**Larry Springer**

State Representative  
45th Legislative District



# Report to the 45<sup>th</sup> District



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## ■ Our Priorities

### Government Accountability & Fiscal Responsibility

This past session proved to be a difficult year. Once again budgets were tight and the legislature found itself in a difficult situation. Ultimately, I was not willing to support a gas or general fund tax increase.



As a small business owner I have seen first hand how important each and every dollar is to the success of my business. Government needs to be responsible in how it spends our tax dollars. One of the first bills I co-sponsored and passed this legislative session was a strict performance audit measure to make state agencies accountable. We also cut over 1000 government management positions—reducing bureaucracy and saving millions in taxpayer dollars.

### Jobs

One of the first responsibilities of government should be ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to find a good paying job. This year the legislature made job creation one of its top priorities.



### Local investments = Jobs

The Legislature passed a statewide \$3.2 billion Capital Budget which serves as the State's main construction fund. Included in this budget was just under \$15 million for the 45<sup>th</sup> district.

A recent University of Washington study estimates that for every \$1 million that is spent in construction by a public or private entity 30.8 jobs are created. Using this model this year's Capital Budget will create approximately 95,000 jobs with an additional 37,000 jobs created with local matching funds.

### Job Development Fund

I was proud to be a sponsor of the Job Development Fund which provides grants to cities, towns and other government entities for projects that create local jobs, stimulate economic development, and promote community growth. This program is a win-win for

business and the state. By helping local government the State can ensure that Washington is truly committed to attracting and retaining businesses.

### Keeping the Economy Moving

In researching the priorities of businesses across the state one of the top problems they face is traffic gridlock. Former Gov. Gary Locke's Competitiveness Council estimated that congestion costs the economy \$2 billion a year. When people are sitting in traffic they are not purchasing goods. When our freeways are clogged freight can not be moved in and out of our ports. Moving goods is vital to the success of our economy and this year the legislature made long-term investments help us to remain competitive.

### Education

As a former teacher, I know the importance of quality schools. Not only are they important to the success of our children, they help attract quality businesses to the Puget Sound region. This year the legislature respected the will of the voters, fully funding Initiatives 728—reducing class sizes, and 732—improving teacher pay.



A record investment of \$600 million will fund emergency repairs, modernization and new construction for K-12 schools throughout the state. This money includes just under \$1 million for renovations to the Emily Dickinson and Rose Hill elementary schools in the Lake Washington School District.

Higher education received a tremendous boost as we funded 7,900 new enrollment slots in both 2-year and 4-year programs. Locally, we received over \$2 million for the construction of the Allied Health Building and Science Laboratory at Lake Washington Technical College.

Finally, I sponsored legislation that will generate as much as \$180 million in additional state support for local school construction needs. The state portion of school construction costs have plummeted from nearly 70 percent of the total costs in the early 1980s to less than 30 percent today. This means local property-taxes are now shouldering more than two thirds of construction costs. By forcing the state to step up to the plate, it is my hope that we will get some much needed relief for local property-tax payers.

# Report to the 45<sup>th</sup> District

## Health Care

This year the legislature made significant strides to help drive down the skyrocketing costs of healthcare. Here are some of the major reforms I supported.

- **Insuring our Children:** Currently there are over 67,000 children in Washington State without health insurance. I co-sponsored legislation that provides healthcare for an additional 38,750 children and sets the goal of having every child covered by 2011. If children are ill we can either have them insured or pay for them in our emergency rooms.
- **Prescription Drugs:** We passed legislation to expand the state's prescription drug purchasing consortium to allow uninsured Washingtonians – as well as private businesses and labor unions – to become eligible for bulk purchasing discounts. Recent reports show that a similar program the state enacted in 2003 is expected to save tax payers \$100 million over the next 2 years. The Health Care Authority expects our new Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium will help 81,000 senior citizens and 122,000 younger uninsured individuals save money on their prescription medicines.



***I was pleased to sponsor legislation that gives up to \$180 million in additional support to local school construction.***

- ✓ **Local Infrastructure:** Over \$6 million to help the City of Carnation replace current septic tank systems with a centralized collection system. State funding helps avert staggering sewer-rate costs to Carnation homeowners and businesses.

- ✓ **Community Development:** \$50,000 for the Sno-Valley Senior Activity Center as well, \$500,000 for the restoration of Juanita Creek and \$200,000 for the River Walk and Sammamish River Restoration.

- ✓ **Affordable Housing:** Over \$20 million was added to the state-wide Affordable Housing Trust Fund. These funds will help local communities address homelessness and low-income housing issues across the state.



## Transportation Budget

I voted against the transportation package because funding for the 520 Bridge was slashed at the last moment. However I fought hard to get the following projects into the final budget.

- ✓ Improvements to Interstate 405 from NE 124th to SR-522 as well the 132nd street interchange.
- ✓ Improvements to SR-522 at the North Creek and Bear Creek exits.
- ✓ Roadside safety improvements to SR-203 and SR-522.
- ✓ Funds to build the UW Bothell/Cascadia Community College SR-522 off ramp.

## Budgets

The 45th district had many victories in this year's budgets. The following are projects and programs that have received funding for the upcoming biennium.

### Capital Budget

Overall the 45th district received just under \$15 million in local projects along with additional state-wide money to deal with growing school and housing needs.





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## Election Reform

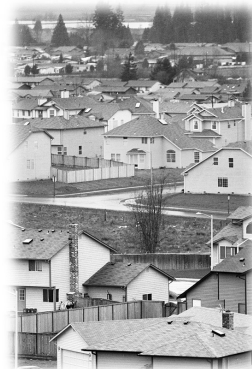
I supported a package of election reform bills that will make major improvements to our electoral process. Voters, citizens' groups, and election officials from all over the state were involved in drafting the legislation.



- We increased identification requirements making them more stringent than the Federal standards put in place by President Bush. (Help America Vote Act)
- There will be a state-wide voter database eliminating the problem of felons and dead people voting.
- The state is demanding more accountability in elections by implementing mandatory inspection of county procedures by the Secretary of State's office.
- We have toughened penalties (Class-C felony) on those who knowingly register or vote illegally.
- And ballots will be clearly identified for military voters to ensure their vote will be counted in a timely fashion.

## Growth Management

I sponsored and passed two pieces of legislation that will improve aid to local governments and improve the public's involvement in growth management decisions. The bills require the public be given a year's notice before any growth management decision be made and allows local government an additional year to complete their growth management plans. When people's lives and property are impacted by government decisions, they deserve every opportunity to help shape those decisions.



## We Have Moved!

We have a new district office. I want to hear from you! Please give us a call or send us an email with your ideas and comments.

**Where:** 611 Market St., Suite 11 • Kirkland, WA 98033

**Phone:** (425) 739-1806

**Email:** Springer.Larry@leg.wa.gov

PS – If you would like to receive regular email updates on what is going on in the legislature just send me a quick email and we will sign you up.

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